

Farm Service Agency

Rhode Island FSA Office

April - May 2006

*** IMPORTANT ***

Deadlines are approaching . . . Make sure to come into the office soon!

Emergency Conservation

SIGN UP BEGINS APRIL 3, 2006, ENDS JUNE 1, 2006

Rhode Island has \$100,000 in Emergency Conservation funds available. This program is available to help rehabilitate active farmland damaged by flooding that occurred on **10/14/2005 and 10/15/2005**. These funds are available for Cost Share reimbursement not to exceed 75% for the cost of the following practices:

- ◊ Removing debris
- ◊ Grading, Shaping, Releveling, or Similar Measures
- ◊ Restoring permanent fencing
- ◊ Restoring conservation structures or other installations

ECP Funds allocated for one disaster cannot be used for any subsequent disaster. For more information please contact the county office 401-828-3120 or toll free at 1-800-551-5144.

Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program

If you have not yet signed up, make sure you come in by the June 1, 2006 deadline. Contracts for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) must be updated each year. It is **NOT** a continuous program.

After the June 1 deadline, you will still be able to enroll for DCP. However, there will be a \$100 per farm fee to enroll. The last day to enroll for 2006 is September 30. If you were eligible but did not enroll in 2005, you can in 2006.

Deficit Reduction Act: Producers who enroll land in the Direct and Countercyclical Payment Program after Feb. 8 will have the option to receive an advance direct payment of up to **40 percent** of the direct payment for any covered commodity for the 2006 crop year. The amount of the advance payment was reduced from 50 percent by the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2005.

Sad News

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of **Aaron Briggs**. Aaron was a retired dairy farmer from Foster. He had been very supportive of Rhode Island agriculture and was currently serving as an Alternate County Committee Member from Providence County.

Milk Income Loss Contract

MILCX SIGN-UP UNDERWAY DEADLINE MAY 17, 2006

The MILC program is extended through Aug. 31, 2007. Dairy producers have until May 17 to sign up for the extended Milk Income Loss Contract (MILCX) program. Program payments will begin following sign-up.

FSA will make payments on an operation-by-operation basis, up to a maximum of 2.4 million pounds of milk produced in the United States and marketed per fiscal year. From Oct. 1, 2005, through Aug. 31, 2007, a dairy operation's monthly payment will equal the milk quantity sold in that month multiplied by 34 percent of the negative difference between \$16.94 per hundredweight and that month's domestic Boston Class I milk price.

Participating dairy operations must select the month they want to start receiving payments for eligible production. Producers may retroactively select any month beginning December 2005 through May 2006 for sign up before May 17, 2006.

Sign up will continue after May 17, through the end of the program. However, after May 17, producers will not have been able to select a retroactive month for payment for which the payment rate has already been announced.

The starting month selection particularly affects those operations with milk production that exceeds the 2.4 million pound cap. Those producers will want to select a start month that would maximize their program payments for their eligible production. Producers under the cap will be eligible for payments on all of their production for each month that a MILCX program payment is made.

Dairy producers can apply for MILC at the FSA county office and online at
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/daftp/psd/>

*Sign-up
has begun*

**Sign your 2006
DCP Contract**

Crop Reporting and Planting Dates



ALL participating farms must file a crop report to be eligible for program benefits. This includes payments under DCP, NAP, CRP, LDPs, and disaster programs.

The deadline to report acreage is July 14, 2006. Reports filed after that will be required to pay an initial \$20 late fee, plus \$0.25 per acre on the remaining of the farm.

Also keep track of your planting dates. Those dates are helpful to you in the event of a disaster program.

Planting dates are also **required** for producers enrolled in NAP and crop insurance. We will ask you for these dates when you file your crop report.

Join Our Team

We have an opening for clerical / office support, a full time, temporary position in our Warwick office. Salary ranges from \$12/hr to \$18/hr based on qualifications. Knowledge of GIS programs preferred, but not required. Interested candidates should refer to

WWW.USAJOBS.OPM.GOV

County Information

Address:

60 Quaker Lane Suite 49
Warwick RI 02886

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Staff:

Melissa Turrisi, CED
Anne Belleville, PT
Devon Edmiston, PT
Roxanne Boisse, FLM
Joe Marcoccia, FLO
Sandy Ford, PT

Phone Numbers:

401-828-3120
800- 551-5144
Fax- 401-821-0780

Toll-Free Number for FSA Borrowers

Direct loan borrowers with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) can now check the status of their accounts around the clock using a new toll-free telephone number.

The toll-free number, 1-888-518-4983, is available in both English and Spanish. The system delivers information on active FSA loans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the first call to the new system, borrowers will enter their tax identification number (TIN) or the social security number (SSN) associated with the loan. They also will need to enter their zip code. Borrowers will create a personal identification number (PIN) for security. Customers must enter their PIN every time they use the system and may change their PIN. The system menu assists users access helpful information. The system may also direct borrowers to contact their local FSA servicing office if action is necessary on their accounts.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Dates to Remember

April 1	Sign up begins for ECP
April 5	COC Meeting
May 3	COC Meeting
May 26	Office Closed- Memorial Day
June 1	2005 DCP sign-up Deadline
June 1	ECP Deadline
July 14	Crop Report Deadline
Today	Nominations for COC - Providence Co.
Today	Report Changes to Operation



USDA - Farm Service Agency
Rhode Island County Office
60 Quaker Lane Suite 49
Warwick, RI 02886

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